



Informational Notes for EMDs and Local Officials

Bulletin #36 – Sept 9, 2003

Missouri State Interoperability Executive Committee Sets September 18 Meeting at SEOC

The Missouri State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) will hold a meeting on Thursday, September 18, 2003 from 9a.m. to noon at State Emergency Management Agency. This committee is created and empowered by the Missouri Department of Public Safety to enhance communications interoperability between public safety entities and public safety communications. Topics to be discussed include:

- The FCC's narrow-banding Docket 03-34 (Reframing below 512 MHz) and interoperability for DPS.
- The deployment of 154.680 MHz (MTAC) a radio frequency designated exclusively for statewide public safety communications between all levels of government in Missouri and implementation.
- Grant funding and how interoperability can improve with equipment acquisition.
- 700 MHz public safety interoperability spectrum (32 channels) and the SIEC's role.
- 800 MHz interoperability plans and how they have developed in certain areas of Missouri.

Congressman Blunt Introduces Legislation to Include USDA in Federal Disaster Response

Congressman Roy Blunt is introducing a three-page bill, which would designate a Department of Agriculture disaster liaison to assist state and local officials in cooperation with other federal agencies in responding to a federally declared disaster. The USDA liaison would provide public information to facilitate the claims and applications of agricultural producers who are victims of a disaster. Missouri Farm Services stated that the May 4th tornadoes damages 2,000 farm buildings, 900 pieces of farm equipment, 2,200 miles of fencing, 98,000 acres of hay and over 1,000 head of livestock died.

"While FEMA, SBA and county USDA officials were busy surveying damage and moving to assist people, no one from USDA was designated, by law, to cut through the red tape and speak for the multi-agency department. Key programs to repair fences, remove debris from pastures and fields remained unfounded," Blunt said. He hopes to bill will be voted on before the 2004 budget is approved.

Missouri Will Be Receiving \$25.9 Million HSS Grant

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced that nationally \$1.4 Billion has been approved for Public Health. Missouri will receive a grant of \$25,954,826 for Public Health Terrorism Response and Surge Capacity. Missouri will use \$16,424,504 to strengthen our public health ability to respond to terrorism and other public health emergencies. And \$9,530,322 will be used to develop hospital surge capacity with mass casualty events.

Free CERT Field Operation Guide Can Be Downloaded

Another resource available to trainers is the CERT Field Operating Guide on FEMA's CERT homepage (link below). It is available for **FREE** download. It was created by Alachua County Fire/Rescue Services in Florida and was shared with FEMA for public information.

The University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute and possibly other organizations are printing, binding and selling this guide. If you choose to purchase this guide you will **NOT** be reimbursed. The guide is

available at no cost to the public. *Sub-grantees: You will be reimbursed for making your own copies from the download.* <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/CERT/certfog.asp>

State Budget Cuts Stop Dam Safety Inspections

Budget cuts forced the state to stop safety inspections of all 638 dams it regulates, instead requiring dam owners to hire private engineers to check for potential safety problems. For the past 15 years, the Dam Safety program was a part of the Water Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources. The state program covered all dams at least 35 feet tall.

Missouri has more than 4,100 dams - most are unregulated. Either the federal government or the state governs major dams. Each has its own system of ranking dams in terms of how hazardous to human life a failure would be. Of Missouri's 638 state-regulated dams, 444 are considered to be high-hazard because there is downstream development, such as homes or businesses. Small agricultural dams are not subject to regulation in Missouri.

10 Missouri Fire Departments Receive Grants

FEMA announced that 10 Missouri Fire Departments received Fire Grants in Round #13 announcements. Those departments receiving grants for Fire Operations & Firefighter Safety were: Creve Coeur FPD (\$22,950); Fenton FPD (\$117,000); City of Clayton FD (\$80,328); Lick Creek Valley VFD (\$87,480); Belgrade VFD (\$32,445); Timber Knob VFD (\$4,750); Gerald-Rosebud FPD (\$126,450); Moreau FPD (\$189,594); and Wellsville Rural Fire Assn (\$31,320).

Departments receiving grants for Firefighting Vehicles were: Kinsey VFD will receive (\$181,075).

31st NOAA Weather Transmitter Will Be Dedicated in Dixon

A NOAA Weather Transmitter will be dedicated on September 27 during the Gasosage Electric Cooperative Annual Business Meeting in Dixon. The transmitter will provide advanced severe weather warnings to residents in Pulaski, Phelps, Maries and Miller Counties and soldiers and families stationed at Fort Leonard Wood. The partnership between SEMA, the Electric Cooperatives and their power generation companies has purchased 21 weather transmitters and mounted those transmitters on electric towers across the state. The transmitters are then gifted to the NWS to disseminate advanced weather warnings to rural Missourians.

"The first phase of the partnership is almost completed," said Jerry Uhlmann. "Now we must concentrate on educating the public about the importance of owning tone alert radios."